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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, OCTOBER 11, 2000

APPLICATION OF AEP RETAIL
ENERGY, LLC

CASE NO. PUE000408

For licenses to conduct
business as a competitive service
provider in electric and natural
gas retail access pilot programs

ORDER FOR NOTICE AND COMMENT

On July 31, 2000, AEP Retail Energy, LLC ("AEP Retail" or "Applicant"), applied for licenses as a competitive service provider in electric and gas retail access pilot programs, as provided by the Interim Rules Governing Electric and Natural Gas Retail Access Pilot Programs ("Interim Rules"), 20 VAC 5-311-50. The application was completed when additional information was filed October 3, 2000. According to its application, AEP Retail proposes to provide electricity in the retail access pilot programs of Virginia Electric and Power Company and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative. The Applicant proposes to provide gas in the retail access pilot programs of Washington Gas Light Company and Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. AEP Retail is affiliated with Appalachian Power Company. According to the application, as supplemented, AEP Retail has served a copy of its application on these utilities as required by the Interim Rules, 20 VAC 5-311-50 C.

NOW UPON CONSIDERATION of the captioned application, the Commission is of the opinion that AEP Retail's application should be docketed; that the Applicant should give appropriate notice of its application; and that the Commission Staff should conduct an investigation into the reasonableness of the application and present its findings in a Staff report.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) As provided by Title 56 of the Code of Virginia and the Interim Rules, 20 VAC 5-311-50 D, this case is docketed and assigned Case No. PUE000408.

(2) A copy of AEP Retail's application and supporting documents shall be made available for public inspection in the Commission's Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Commission business days.

(3) Any interested person may request a copy of the application, accompanying materials, and this Order by directing a request for the same in writing to Mark S. Berndt, Manager-Commercial Operations, AEP Retail Energy, LLC, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio, 43215-2373. The Applicant shall, within three (3) days of receipt of the request, serve the requested documents upon the person making such request.

(4) On or before October 23, 2000, AEP Retail shall complete publication of the following notice to be published on one (1) occasion as classified advertising in newspapers of general circulation within the geographical areas approved by the Commission for each pilot program in which the Applicant seeks to participate:

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY
AEP RETAIL ENERGY, LLC TO CONDUCT BUSINESS
AS A COMPETITIVE SERVICE PROVIDER IN
ELECTRIC AND GAS RETAIL ACCESS PILOT
PROGRAMS
CASE NO. PUE000408

AEP Retail Energy, LLC ("AEP Retail" or "Applicant"), has applied for licenses as a competitive service provider and in electric and gas retail access pilot programs. According to its application, AEP Retail proposes to provide electricity in the retail access pilot programs of Virginia Electric and Power Company and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative. The Applicant proposes to provide gas in the retail access pilot programs of Washington Gas Light Company and Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. AEP Retail is affiliated with Appalachian Power Company.

Copies of AEP Retail's application are available for public inspection between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Commission's Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23218, or can be ordered from Applicant's representative, Mark S. Berndt, Manager-Commercial Operations, AEP Retail Energy, LLC, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio, 43215-2373.

Any person desiring to comment in writing on AEP Retail's application may do so by directing an original and five (5) copies of such comments on or before October 30, 2000, to Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Comments must refer to Case No. PUE000408. A copy of such comments simultaneously shall be sent to Applicant's representative, Mark S. Berndt, at the address set forth above.

AEP RETAIL ENERGY, LLC

(5) Any person desiring to comment in writing on AEP Retail's application may do so by directing an original and five (5) copies of such comments on or before October 30, 2000, to the Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Comments must refer to Case No. PUE000408. A copy of any such comments also must simultaneously be served by first-class mail, or hand-delivered, to Applicant's representative, Mark S. Berndt, Manager-Commercial Operations, AEP Retail Energy, LLC, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio, 43215-2373.

(6) The Commission Staff shall analyze the reasonableness of AEP Retail's application and shall present its findings in a Staff report to be filed on or before November 3, 2000.

(7) On or before November 9, 2000, the Applicant shall file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of any response it may have to the Staff report and

any comments that have been filed, and shall serve a copy of its response on counsel for the Commission Staff and any person(s) submitting comments. Service shall be by such method that ensures that the response is received by November 9, 2000.

(8) Due to the time-sensitive nature of this proceeding, the Applicant shall respond to written interrogatories or data requests within three (3) business days after the receipt of the same. Interrogatories and data requests, as well as the responses thereto, shall be transmitted via facsimile as well as by first-class mail. Except as modified herein, discovery shall be in accordance with Part VI of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-10-450 to -510.

(9) On or before October 30, 2000, the Applicant shall file with the Clerk of the Commission proof of the notice required in Ordering Paragraph (4).

(10) This matter is continued generally.